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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	08/943,238
Filing Date	October 3, 1997
First Named Inventor	Masaaki HIROKI et al.
Group Art Unit	2814
Examiner Name	Shrinivas H. Rao
Attorney Docket Number	0756-1724

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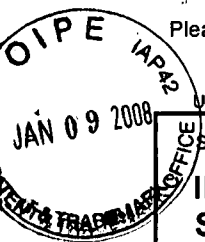
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
/SR/		6,281,520		Yamazaki	08/28/2001	
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/SR/		2005/0007329		Hiroki et al.	01/13/2005	

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
/SR/		Pending Claims on Appeal as of January 21, 2004 of Application Serial No. 90/006,102 filed August 29, 2007 (Reexamination of U.S. Patent 5,905,555).	
		Official Action dated March 24, 2006 and Corresponding Claims for Application Serial No. 09/300,596.	
		Official Action dated December 26, 2006 and Corresponding Claims for Application Serial No. 09/300,596.	
		Specification, Original Claims, Abstract, Drawings and Pending Claims as of June 26, 2006 of Application Serial No. 09/300,596 filed April 28, 1999.	
/SR/		Specification, Original Claims, Abstract, Drawings and Allowed Claims as of November 8, 2007 of Application Serial No. 09/288,140 Filed April 8, 1999.	
Examiner Signature	/Steven Rao/		Date Considered 03/27/2008

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
/SR/		6,437,367		Yamazaki et al.	08/20/2002	
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OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
/SR/		Official Action dated April 4, 2007 and Corresponding Claims of Application Serial No. 09/288,509, now abandoned.	
		Specification, Original Claims, Abstract, and Drawings of Application Serial No. 09/288,509 filed April 8, 1999, now abandoned.	
		Specification, Original Claims, Abstract, Drawings and Pending Claims on Appeal as of July 10, 2006 of Application Serial No. 09/285,899 filed April 8, 1999.	
		Official Action dated March 9, 2000 and Corresponding Claims of Application Serial No. 09/316,198, now abandoned.	
		Specification, Claims, Abstract, and Drawings of Application Serial No. 09/316,198 filed May 21, 1999, now abandoned.	
		Pending Claims as of December 12, 2007 of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0151792 (Serial No. 11/374,038)	
		Pending Claims as of June 13, 2007 of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0033906 (Serial No. 09/961,055)	
		Pending Claims as of October 31, 2007 of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0001965 (Serial No. 10/836,246)	
/SR/		Pending Claims as of September 17, 2007 of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0007329 (Serial No. 10/844,347) ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /SR/	
Examiner Signature	/Steven Rao/		Date Considered 03/27/2008

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